

1. Calling Do of Recruits for Active Service

Contrary to previous practice, postponements of active service are no longer permitted by the military authorities, in order to preserve the present strength of formations. Exemptions from the customary two years active service are not permitted even for key personnel who have been recommended by National Committees of general managers of plants. Military commitments are overruling economic and industrial priorities. These facts are common knowledge among the populace, which takes them as preparations for an emergency.

2. Military Establishments

Since August 1948 troop movements have been carried out as inconspicuously as possible toward the western borders of Bohemia, and billets are being prepared in these areas for the accommodation of military formations. In Litomerice, for instance, a former school house, occupied by the SNB since 1945, had to be evacuated in July 1948, under the pretext that it would be occupied by Russian troops. It is believed that this rumor was purposely spread among the population. Source thinks these billets will be used by Caech troops. Similar things are taking place in other west Bohemian towns. In addition, military barracks are being erected in Susice (Schüttenhofen, N50/Q28) and other towns which have not hitherto had a military garrison.

3. Gasoline Rationing

On 1 September 1948 the authorities radically curtailed gasoline and Diesel oil consumption without giving a public explanation. Special instructions were issued to the District National Committees, and specially nominated commissions began to cancel driving permits for all types of motor-driven vehicles except tractors and motorcycles. Even cars for which the permits were not revoked received only a negligible gasoline ration. Those that were formerly allowed 100 liters a month are now getting only 10 to 20 liters; motorcycles are getting only 5 liters. The black market price of gasoline immediately jumped from 14 Kcs. to 50 to 60 Kcs. per liter in October. It is believed that gasoline consumption has been reduced to 8 or 10 percent of the total consumption before the restriction came into force. Asked for the true reasons for this restriction, the Minister of Transport told Source that there are two:

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1) Rumania has stopped deliveries of crude oil and is willing to supply only refined gasoline only in small quantities; 2) the military administration has claimed the greater part of all available gasoline and is storing it up for the event of an armed conflict.

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